

Women's Voices:

Finding Solutions

2003 Special Report

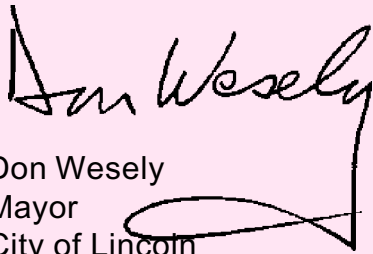
Dedicated to the 796 women who spoke up
to become one voice.
Thank you.

"Speak your mind, even if your voice shakes,"
-- Maggie Kahn



Working as a division of the Mayor's Office since 1976, the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission strives to fulfill its mission of advising City and County officials of social, economic and legal barriers that prevent women from choosing their roles in the family, the labor force and society in general, and working toward the elimination of those barriers. With 15 volunteers and a paid staff of three, the Commission continues to engage in activities designed to heighten community awareness in the areas of self-sufficiency, health care, safety, education and act as a clearinghouse of information for women in need.

This report culminates a yearlong project of surveying women in our city and county to determine their interests and concerns, appropriately named *Women's Voices*. The information will help determine gaps in services for a number of areas. I was particularly interested in the comments women in our communities had to offer. They gave additional insight into the issues they face, and presented a personal perspective of women. The Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission is to be commended for their interest and effort in this comprehensive effort.



Don Wesely
Mayor
City of Lincoln

The Women's Voices survey provides us with a unique opportunity to hear what the women in our community are concerned with in their lives. The report includes the verbatim comments from many of the women surveyed, and some of those comments have been translated from the Spanish, Vietnamese and Arabic surveys that were developed specifically for our city and county. They offer an insight in those very real worries of half our population. We appreciate the efforts of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission in providing tools to help us understand women's concerns.



Jonathan Cook
Chair
Lincoln City Council

Thanks to the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission, we are given a snapshot of what concerns the women of our county. Through Women's Voices, we now have a picture and some anecdotal information that can be of great value as we move forward in determining services - delivered either directly or through strategic partnership. Congratulations to the Women's Commission for their work and efforts in listening to what women have to say.



Bob Workman
Chairman of the Board
Lancaster County Commissioners

Since its inception in 1976, the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission has, frequently on a shoestring budget, worked to educate and inform the public at large and elected officials about the issues that impact women. The Women's Voices project is particularly noteworthy because of its efforts to include women whose first language is not English; the survey was translated into Spanish, Vietnamese and Arabic. The information gleaned from this survey will provide a rich background as we move forward to provide basic needs for the women in our communities.



Mary Beck
President
Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission

About Women's Voices...

When asked what concerns women in Lincoln and Lancaster County, it's hard to respond with one answer. From the contacts we have in the community, our Commissioners, reports from a large variety of sources and phone calls to our office, it's easy to see that there are a number of issues of great concern to our women - but we had no way of determining just which concerns were paramount.

The Women's Voices Project gave us some of those answers. While budgets didn't permit a scientifically evaluated survey, we modeled a similar study by the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women. My colleague there, Rebecca Dakota, gave us permission to revise their questionnaire and report to suit our needs. As the questionnaire was being modified, it became quickly apparent that our growingly diverse communities of women needed consideration. We began by contacting a number of women of different cultures and ethnicities to read our basic questionnaire and if the questions being asked were easily understood and fit within the correct frames of reference. The women involved in this step were amazingly honest and helpful, and helped us to restructure questions and, in some cases, to add others that would provide more helpful information. In recognition of language differences, the questionnaire was printed in Spanish, Vietnamese and Arabic.

As results were being tabulated, it was interesting to see not only the patterns emerge about concerns, but - and perhaps more importantly - to read the verbatim comments that women added. These comments gave life and flesh to the final report, and provided a more personal insight to the responses. We felt it was important to include those verbatim responses in the report to provide context.

The top three concerns were (in order) Health, Employment/Wages and Domestic Violence. Close on the heels of these were Family, Education, Discrimination, Child Care and Housing, and, to a lesser degree, Substance Abuse, Sexual Assault and Transportation.

Working in women's issues is like working on a skyscraper made of cards - if you pull or tweak just one card, the entire structure is in danger of crumbling a side or of collapsing altogether. Policy changes, current events and cutbacks disproportionately affect women, tweaking lots of cards and making a fragile structure even more vulnerable.

Take Health, for example. High health care costs are increasing the health insurance costs for companies, who are, in turn, reducing benefits, increasing co-pays, or eliminating coverage. That is, of course, provided you work for a company that is providing health care in the first place. If, however, you are teetering on the edge of poverty and are working to go from welfare to work, the prospects get a little dicier. You're trying to locate a "good paying job" (whose definition is yet undetermined) with skills that may not be in high demand. Chances are you will, by necessity, take a position in a minimum-wage category with no health care benefits and no available money to budget for coverage on your own. The situation becomes even more precarious when children are in the family.

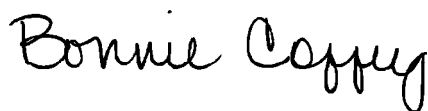
Imagine, if you will, for just a while, that you are a single mother with one small toddler. You're single because you've been through the women's shelter system after you left an abusive spouse, and you've graduated to being out on your own. You've found an hourly position at a more-than-minimum wage job making \$7.50 an hour; higher paying positions required more education than you have. Because you have no savings for a car (you had to save for months to make the rent deposit), so you must use the local bus system to get to and from work. You've successfully found an affordable apartment on a bus line (no easy feat), and the morning marathon begins, as you maneuver a bus trip to the child care provider that accepts Title XX and then to your job. The whole routine is reversed in the evenings, but you have to take that 5:15 p.m. bus in order to get the last bus from the child care provider's to your home. Grocery shopping takes up an entire Saturday.

Life is going fairly well - until your toddler becomes ill. As an hourly employee, you receive no paid sick leave or vacation; to take your child to the doctor will require you to take unpaid time off, time you can ill-afford. A maze of bus schedules awaits you, along with worries about how many days you will have to miss because of your child's illness, and the worry of receiving a cold-shoulder from your less-than-Family-Friendly employer when you do return to work and a fear of being fired because you cannot be at work. After all, your childcare provider will not accept children with temperatures.

This scenario, complete with multiple versions and conditions, gets played out in Lincoln and Lancaster County every day. It is easy to see how policies and progress made on domestic abuse services and resources, education for quality jobs, wages that provide an adequate standard of living, efficient public transportation, child care and quality early education that is affordable and accessible, decent and affordable housing, adequate health care services, and work-life issues have an enormous impact on how life is lived in our cities and towns. They impact 50-51% of the population, and they have the ability to make "The Good Life" motto of our state a farce.

Hopefully, this report will provide some food for thought and a glimpse into the concerns of women in our community. Perhaps you will learn something new; perhaps you will have a hunch confirmed. At a minimum, we hope that it will stir some interest and concern and prompt a perspective that you've not had before, and that you will work to do something about.

We would be remiss if we didn't thank the women who helped craft the questionnaire, and, of course, the women who took the time to share with us their words - they are, indeed, Women's Voices.



Bonnie Coffey
Director,
Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission

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METHODOLOGY

Using a model questionnaire from the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women as a starting point, the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission customized, designed and administered its own survey, *Women's Voices: Finding Solutions*. This survey, which reached approximately 5,000 women in Lincoln and Lancaster County, was developed with input from private and community-based women's organizations, including the Hispanic Community Center, Malone Center, Lincoln Interfaith Council, the Indian Center and Faces of the Middle East.

The survey was composed of 26 questions and distributed through a wide range of individuals, government agencies, local businesses, private and community-based organizations, fairs and informational/event booths, women's clubs, professional groups, work sites and upon request. In an effort to reach a wide variety of demographic and ethnic female groups, the distribution and data collection period was held for one year, August 1, 2001 to July 31, 2002.

By design, the four-page survey was broken into two segments: "Demographics" and "Women's Issues." Respondents indicated their answers through a series of multiple choice questions and write-in responses. For purposes of this report, the verbatim responses were edited for spelling and grammar, and grouped according to topics, which were then ranked according to the number of voices to determine ascending importance.

Under the last category, *Other Concerns*, the verbatim responses show a corresponding number to the left that matches the actual survey returned by the participant. This allows a closer study at the individual's responses, which may or may not shed light on why that participant had such concerns. Also, these free flowing thoughts and comments listed in *Other Concerns* are not grouped or ranked according to topics.

In interpreting results and graph information, the total number of votes in each category was calculated as a percentage of the total number of survey participants. Graphs were broken out into generalized topics and well-defined subcategories to reflect comparisons as weighted against other answers to the same question. Depending upon the category and respondent's needs, participants may or may not have answered 100% of all questions, and some participants elected to vote with multiple answers in a single category, thereby creating a wide participation rate, ranging of 50% to 150%.

All sample surveys are subject to possible sampling errors. Thus, the results of a survey may differ from those that would be obtained if the entire female population were interviewed. The size of the sampling error depends upon both the total number of respondents to a given question and the percentage distribution of responses to that question. The sampling error, a general rule of almost three percent, can be applied to any specific answer and implied that if all women in Lancaster County were asked a specific question in their specific demographic group, three percent more or less would respond a specific consensus.



Women's Voices...

Finding solutions
A series of open forums on Women's Issues

Listed below are some of the issues that impact women in our community. Which problems do you think are the most serious facing you as a woman in our community? Please check all those you think are problems. If you have other concerns that are not listed, please add them under "Other Concerns."

In the column to the right, "This Concerns Me Most," circle the item that concerns you the most for that issue.

✓	PROBLEM	THIS CONCERNS ME MOST
	Child Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cost •Availability •Quality •Accessibility •Other _____
	Discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Racism •Homophobia (fear of homosexuals) •Sexism (women being discriminated against, sons valued more than daughters) •Religious •Handicapped •Age •Other _____
	Domestic Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Physical Abuse •Verbal Abuse •Emotional/Psychological Abuse •Abuse by spouse, family unit or other family members (siblings/ in-laws) •Abuse to children •Other _____
	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Quality •Access to •Cost •Culturally encompassing- Is your culture being included in school education? •Other _____
	Employment/Wages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Transportation to work •Wages too low •Lack of skilled work •Time & distance of travel to work •Hostile work environment •Other _____
	Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Single parenting •Communicating with teens •Need for youth activities: ___ Pre School ___ After school ___ Year round •Intercultural/intergenerational issues (conflicts between parents & child) •Other _____
	Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Stress/Depression •Mental health services •Cost of services •Insurance •Available health care is not culturally acceptable •Concerns with confidentiality among available resources •Lack of access to health care because _____ •Other _____

DEMOGRAPHICS

1 Residency

Northwest Lincoln	14%
Southwest Lincoln.....	16%
Northeast Lincoln.....	15%
Southeast Lincoln.....	31%
County Residents.....	10%
Other.....	10%
Unspecified.....	4%

2 Housing

House.....	70%
Own home.....	58%
*Rent home.....	13%
*Unspecified.....	7%
*No Response.....	22%
Apartment.....	17%
Mobile Home.....	2%
Duplex	2%
Other.....	7%
No Response.....	2%

3 Marital Status

Divorced/Separated.....	15%
Single.....	19%
Partnered.....	5%
Married.....	51%
Widowed.....	8%
No Response.....	2%

4 Age

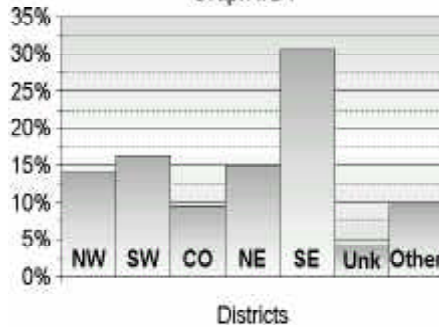
10-19 yrs	2%
20-29 yrs	17%
30-39 yrs	19%
40-49 yrs	23%
50-59 yrs	15%
60-69 yrs	9%
70-79 yrs	10%
80 + yrs	5%

5 Education

No formal schooling.....	1%
Grades 1 to 5.....	3%
Grades 6 through 8.....	3%
Some high school.....	5%
High school/GED.....	13%
Some college.....	26%
Two-year degree.....	10%
Four-year degree.....	16%
Some post graduate studies.....	8%
Master's degree and beyond.....	15%

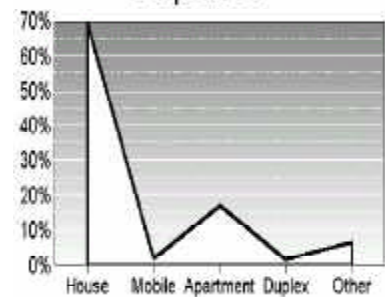
RESIDENCY

Graph #D1



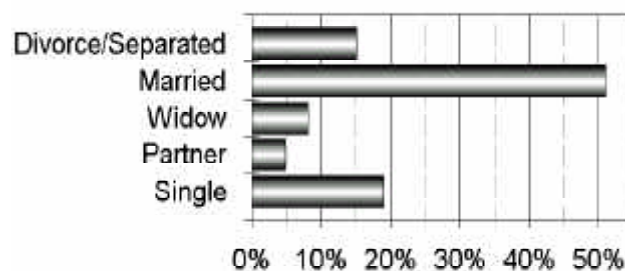
COHABITATION

Graph #D2



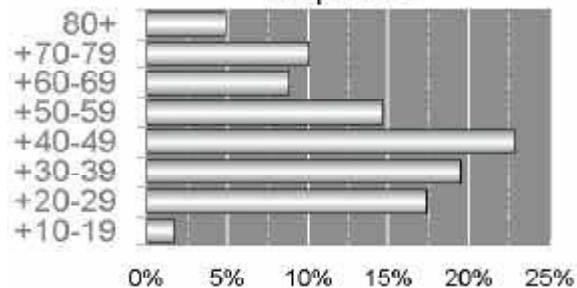
MARITAL STATUS

Graph #D3



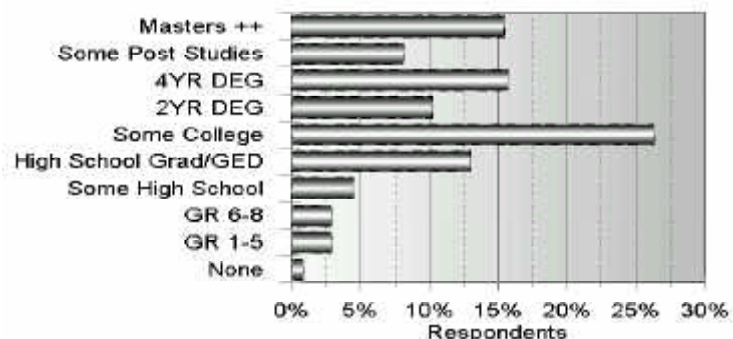
AGE GROUPS

Graph #D4



EDUCATION

Graph #D5



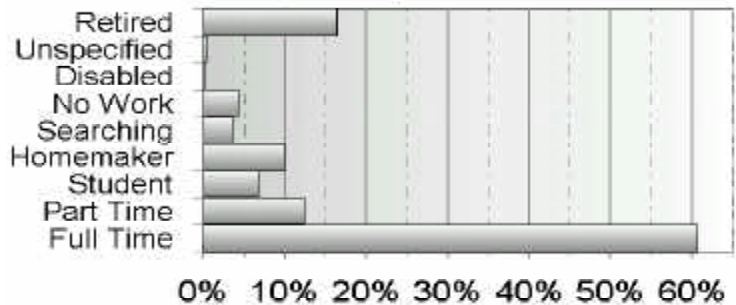
DEMOGRAPHICS

6 Work Status

Working full time.....	61%
Working part time.....	12%
Unemployed.....	4%
In school.....	7%
Searching for work.....	4%
Retired.....	16%
Homemaker.....	10%

WORK STATUS

Graph #D6

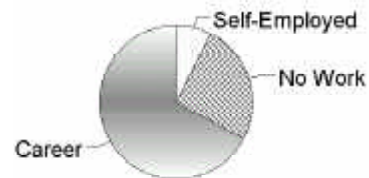


7 Employment

Self-employed.....	7%
Work for someone else.....	66%
Not working outside the home.....	25%
No Response.....	2%

EMPLOYER

Graph #D7

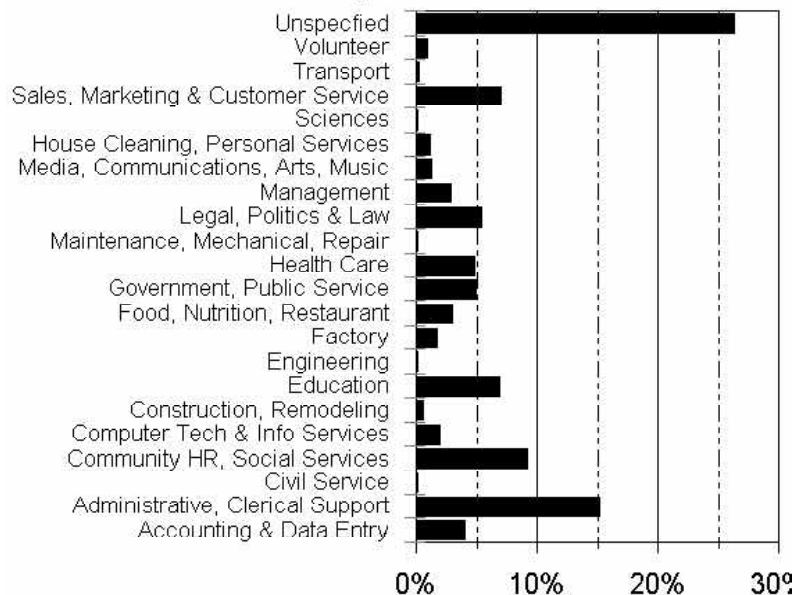


8 Profession

Accounting, data entry	4%
Administration, Clerical	15%
Social Services	9%
Computer & Technology	2%
Construction/Remodeling.....	1/2 %
Education	7%
Factory	2%
Food, Nutrition	3%
Government	5%
Health Care	5%
Legal & Law Enforcement	5%
Management	3%
Media, Graphic Arts, Music	1%
Home & Personal Services	1%
Sales & Marketing	7%
Transportation	1/2 %
Volunteer Work	1%
Unspecified	26%
No Response	4%

PROFESSIONS

Graph #D8



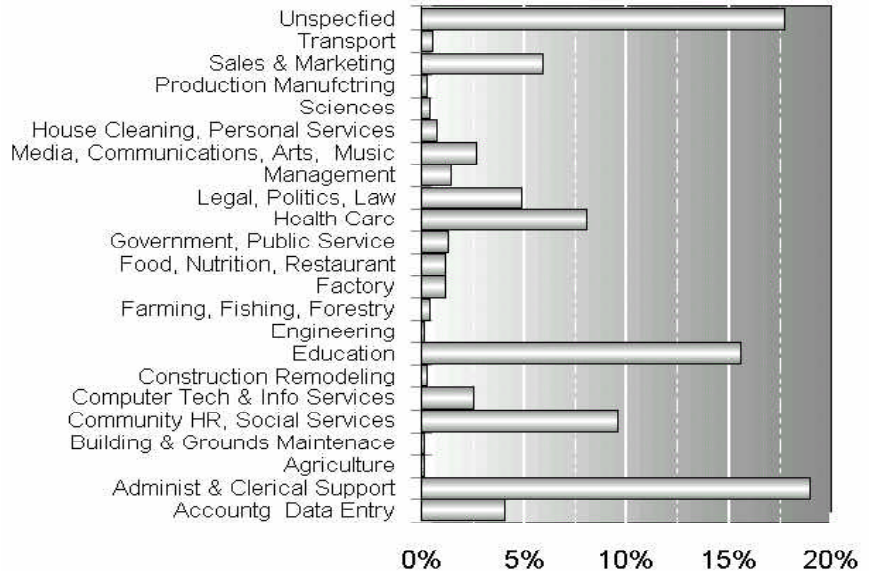
DEMOGRAPHICS

9 Vocation

Accounting, data entry	4%
Administration, Clerical	19%
Community/Social Services	10%
Computer & Technology	2%
Construction & Remodeling.....	½ %
Education	16%
Factory	2%
Food, Nutrition	1%
Government	1%
Health Care	8%
Legal & Law Enforcement	5%
Management	1%
Media, Graphic Arts, Music	3%
Home & Personal Services	1%
Sales & Marketing	6%
Sciences.....	½ %
Transportation.....	½ %
Unspecified	18%
No Response	29%

VOCATION

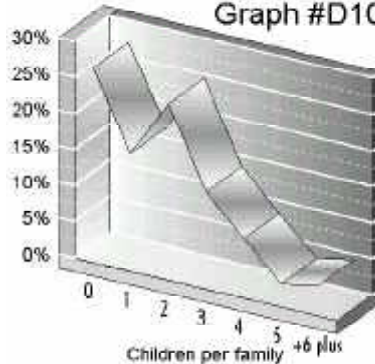
Graph #D9



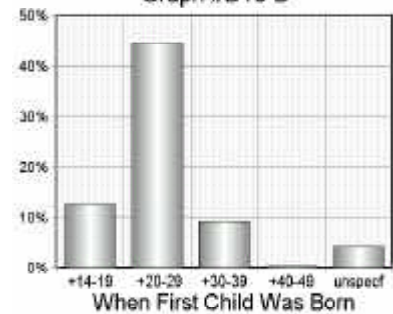
10 Family Size

Children at home, under 18 years old:	
0.....	27%
1.....	16 ½ %
2.....	24 ½ %
3.....	14%
4.....	8%
5.....	3%
6 or more	4%
No Response	3%

FAMILY SIZE
Graph #D10



MOTHER'S AGE
Graph #D10 B



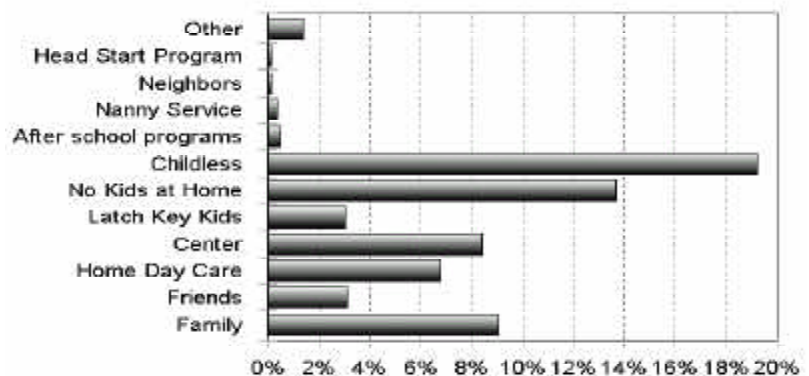
10 B Mother's age when first child was born:

14 - 19 yrs	13%
20 - 29 yrs	45%
30 - 39 yrs	9%
40 - 49 yrs.....	½ %
Unspecified	26%
No Response	29%

11 Child Care Provider

Family	9%
Friends	3%
Day care home	7%
Day care center	8%
Stay by themselves	3%
No children at home	14%
Childless	19%
After School Program	1%
Other	1%
No Response.....	37%

CHILD CARE
Graph #D11



DEMOGRAPHICS

12 Women's Health Insurance

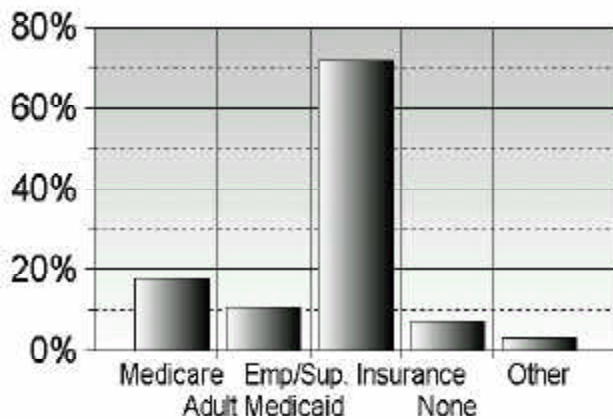
Medicare	18%
Employer/Supplemental Health Insurance	72%
Medicaid	11%
No Insurance	7%
Other	3%

13 Children's Health Insurance

Health insurance through parent/guardian's plan	27%
Medicaid	7%
No Insurance	4%
Kids Connection	6%
No Children at home	7%
Other	1%
No Response	48%

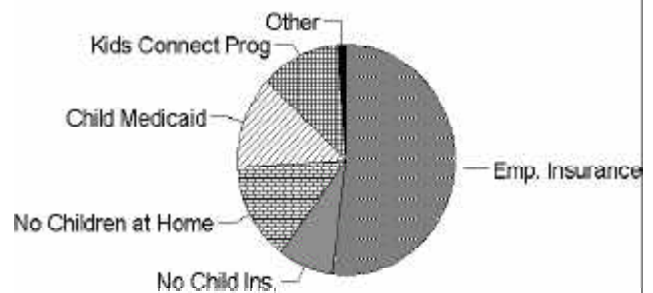
ADULT HEALTH CARE

Graph #D12



CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE

Graph #D13



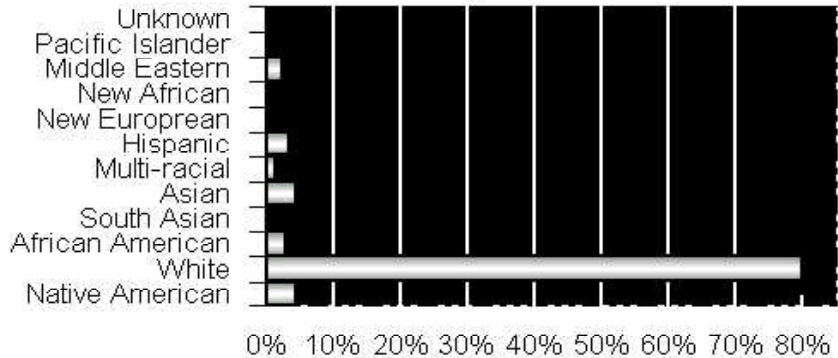
DEMOGRAPHICS

14 Ethnicity

Unknown	1%
Pacific Islander	0%
Middle Eastern	2%
African Newcomer	1%
European Newcomer	1%
Hispanic/Latina	4%
Multiracial	1%
Asian	4%
South Asian	0%
African American	3%
White	80%
Native American	4%

ETHNICITY

Graph #D14

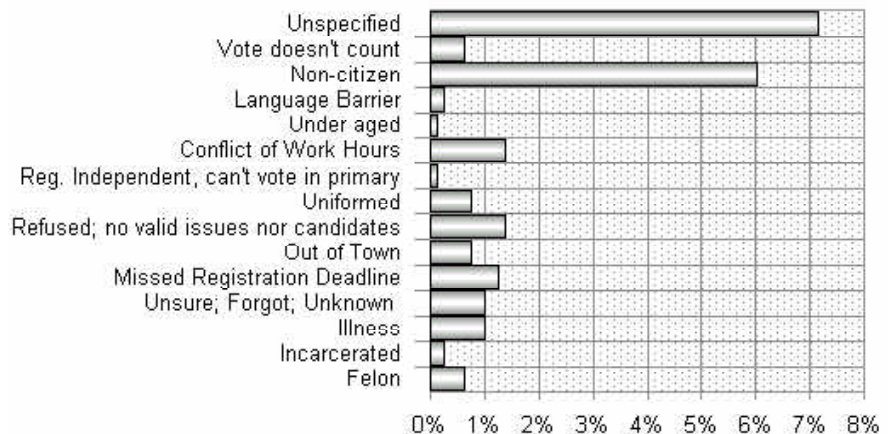


15 Citizenship

Yes	92%
No	7%
No Response	1%

NO VOTE REASONS

Graph #D16



Competent in English

Yes, I can read English	88%
Yes, I can write English	88%
No Response	12%

15 B Voting Record

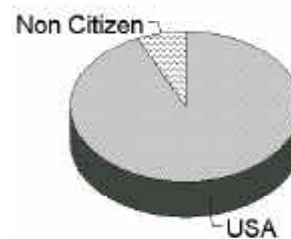
Registered voter	85%
Not a registered voter	11%
No Response	29%

15 C Voted in last election?

Yes	72%
No	21%
No Response	7%

CITIZENSHIP

Graphic #D15

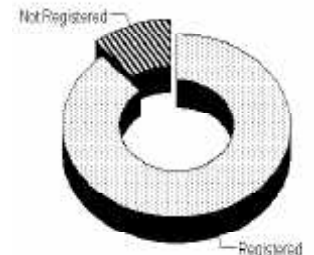


16 Why Not?

Felon	1/2%
Incarcerated	1/2%
Illness	1%
I don't know; forgot	1%
Missed registration deadline	1%
Out of town that day	1%
No valid issues, disliked candidates	1%
Couldn't decide; uniformed on issue	1%
Registered Independent, vote in general election only	1/3%
Conflict of Work Hours	1%
Under aged	0%
Language Barrier	1/2%
Non-Citizen	6%
It's pointless; doesn't make a difference	1/2%
Unspecific Reasons	7%

REGISTERED VOTER

Graph #D15 B



OVERVIEW SUMMARY

There were 796 women who participated in the yearlong study and voted for “what concerned” them the most. Many of them also added written comments relative to the issues at hand.

In summary, the typical female respondent was a middle-aged, white married professional who had some college education, worked full time and resided in Southeast Lincoln.

The majority of *Women's Voices* (69%) indicated that health care costs (39%) was a major concern for them and their families. From prescription drugs to medical visits to monthly premium payments and larger co-pays with less policy coverage, concerns about insurance coverage ranked second (27%) from the top. The demographic study showed that 72% of the women were covered by some type of insurance plan with the majority being employer related. Conversely and sadly, seven percent indicated they had no insurance coverage and couldn't afford satisfactory health care.

Four percent of children also had no health insurance coverage.

Domestic violence remains a top priority concern according to *Women's Voices* (58%) respondents who felt emotional abuse (27%), child abuse (26%) and physical abuse (24%) lacked the necessary support systems (shelters, funding and programs) needed to educate, reform and promote a safer living environment within our community.

Another major concern among Lincoln and Lancaster County women was employment and wages. The vast majority of voices (57%) agreed that wages are too low (42%) and underemployment is a real problem. With regards to quality jobs, Lincoln doesn't compare well to other markets in other states. Many hurdles exist for the single parent and low-income parents who must hold two or more jobs in order to meet their monthly financial obligations and cost of living needs. Some women indicated they lacked the necessary education level or skills required (8%) to move up the economic ladder.

Education is a priority concern (54%) as women indicated the cost (27%) and quality (23%) of the education as a barrier to completing goals. Some women stated that getting a higher education was a privilege only for the wealthy while others lamented over their child's homework assignments conflicting parent's work schedules, outside family activities, and other

responsibilities.

Not surprisingly, *Women's Voices* tied with regards to family and housing (52%) issues.

Affordability (41%) and quality (16%) of housing are two major concerns. Under current economics and credit rating systems, home ownership is either very difficult or not an option if you are a single parent and/or of low income. Those women who can afford to own a home indicated the high cost of taxes, maintenance and utilities consumed too much of their monthly budget, putting a financial stressor on their pocketbooks.

Parenting issues, relationship-building and community activities are of moderate concern to many women. Single parenting (20%) support and a need for youth activities (18%) reflect a lack of community support systems and partnership programs.

Discrimination and child care tied (51%) as moderate concerns.

Many women indicated that they deal with some form of discrimination in their daily lives, ranging from obesity to hate crimes to age to religion. The two highest issues were sexism (25%) and racism (23%).

Child care issues, including cost (30%) and quality (28%), remain a constant concern with working mothers. Nebraska's working mothers ranked second in the nation as the largest

female workforce with children living in the household in 2000.

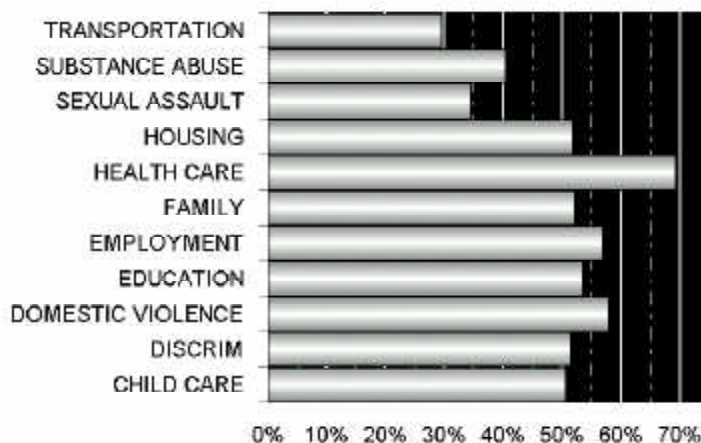
Items ranked of marginal concern, but of great importance, were substance abuse (40%), sexual assault (34%) and transportation (29%).

Drugs (26%) and alcohol (22%) abuse issues continue to be a challenge faced by family members, young adults and public health systems. There is no or little assistance available to the uninsured, and some women believe that the “college-town atmosphere” allows such abuses to be socially acceptable.

Sexual harassment (19%) and rape (13%) incidents were named as the two top concerns of sexual assault issues. Difficulty in reporting the crime, going to court and getting a conviction continues to be the major hurdle in thwarting the number of sexual assault incidents occurring in the community.

Women's Voices indicated the lack of adequate public transit system (16%) affected their mobility in accessing employment, education and health care resources.

WOMEN'S ISSUES WHAT'S IMPORTANT?



PRIORITY CONCERNS With Verbatim Responses

STRESS	21%
COST	39%
AVAILABILITY	6%
CONFIDENTIALLY	5%
ACCESS	6%
MENTAL HEALTH	12%
INSURANCE.....	27%
OTHER.....	10%

Research & Education

Provide knowledge & education about domestic violence.

Need more research in women's health problem, i.e. menopause.

Lack of current information on women's health issues held by general medical community or failure to implement system's health check specific to a woman's age.

Economics & Cost

Discount in treatments for low-income persons who can't afford health insurance.

Over the limit for Medicaid but too poor to afford any health insurance.

Health Care is unaffordable for single, uninsured women.

Co-pay unaffordable.

Single women are forced to work many jobs to earn a living, and are deprived of a social and family support systems, which leads to depression & loneliness.

The stigma associated with mental health care. MD's say it's common, but Blue Cross/Blue Shield charges more for office visits than for regular medical calls.

High medical bills with minimal coverage.

The gaps in the safety net of insurance and medicaid.

Mental Health

Lack of adequate insurance for mental health services.

Culturally inclusive and competent mental health services.

Too much concern over being thin versus being strong by teen women.

Family Support

Marriage counseling not covered

HEALTH CARE 69%

by insurance.

Multicultural Concerns

Poor wages don't attract diverse providers, poor cultural atmosphere; would like doctor of own culture.

Sexism

Doctors tend to invalidate women's health needs by saying it's their imagination, but thoroughly check out men's health care complaints.

Gender appropriate services.

Managed Care & Access

Want someone else, other than my doctor, making decision about my health care needs.

Want to be able to pick my own physicians.

No coverage for "alternative" (holistic, homeopathy) therapies.

Lack of health care because availability of office hours (8 a.m. - 4 p.m.) when I work 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A caring health care provider who utilizes all avenues including complimentary medicines.

Lack of quality physicians available who take on new patients.

Health care should be available to anyone who needs it.

The availability of family planning and abortion services.

Lack of adequate care when incarcerated.

Lack of Health Care

Because doctors are too busy to see patients.

Unemployment.

Not offered to part-time employees.

Insurance companies refuse to write individual policies based on prior patient health history.

Too expensive for the self-employed.

Employers not hiring minorities, thus no insurance because of unemployment.

No assistance from State Department of Health and Human Services if income is \$1 over department's guideline limits.

Poor or no dependable transportation available to get to a doctor's office.

Companies do not offer it to their employees.

Because of conflict with work time, cost and knowledge.

Because of homophobic issues.

HMO treatment options limited.

Prescription Costs

Postponed retirement because of high costs of medical care and prescriptions even with insurance coverage.

Elderly care for those who can't afford the high costs of drugs and medical care.

Health care for elderly women is more than they can afford or pay for prescriptions and supplemental insurance policies.

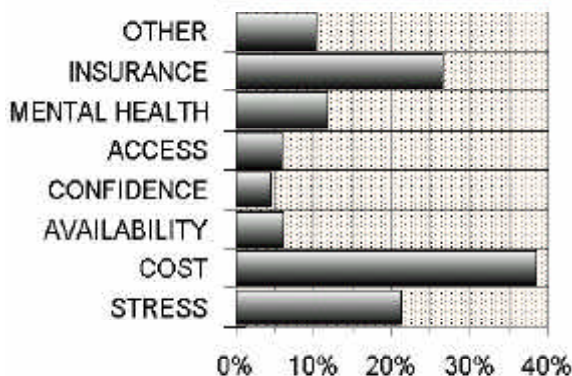
Prescription and premium rates increasing annually.

Controlling the costs of health care, insurance and pharmaceutical companies.

Elderly Health Care

No health insurance available to nonworking women when spouses' retire.

Health Care
Graph #C22



PRIORITY CONCERNS

With Verbatim Responses

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 58%

PHYSICAL	24%
EMOTIONAL	27%
FAMILY	18%
CHILD	26%
VERBAL	23%
OTHER	3%

Challenges

Sexual Abuse.
Lack of help in general for women.
Seems to be increasing yearly in the number of violent acts.
Elderly abuse issues.
Emotional abuse from ex-spouse.
Sexual addicts.
Lack of shelters.
Lack support in filing police reports.

Cost

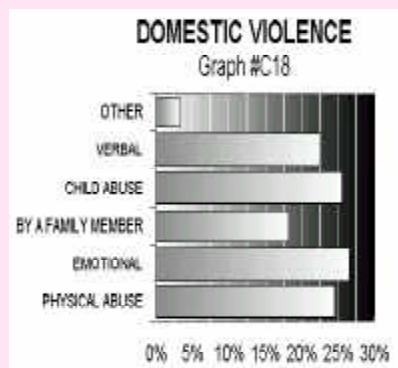
Lack of funding and resources for victims to leave abuser, need more protection programs.
Lack of funding to provide abusers with deterrent programs and counseling.

Cultural difference

Verbal insults from strangers is a problem in general for society.

Safety

Safety in the world isn't what it used to be.



EMPLOYMENT & WAGES 57%

TRANSPORTATION	7%
LACKS SKILLS	8%
TIME & DISTANCE	5%
HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT	7%
WAGES TO LOW	42%
WAGE DISPARITY	2%
OTHER	4%
NO RESPONSE	69%

Access

Downtown employment - the cost of monthly parking is too high.

Unsupervised coworkers abusing personal privileges during work hours.

Sexual harassment for women that climb up the ladder to success.

Lack of advancement and opportunities.

Problems with obtaining social security disability benefits.

Teachers' pay is poor.

Because of the large employment pool and university access, Lincoln's wages are not competitive & women suffer the most.

Public Assistance

Public assistance's energy costs and Social Security insurance's assistance income guidelines are too low; still unable to meet family's needs sufficiently.

Low-income women must hold multiple jobs, working seven days a week to make ends meet.

Working Mothers.

Flexibility to balance demands of

work and family duties.

Single parents must hold one full time job and many part time jobs to compensate for a two-income household in order to raise and provide for their children's needs. Single parent income doesn't cover all needs and it's difficult to make improvements in life situations.

Cost of health care insurance benefits is too high, leaves less take home pay.

Comparable Markets

Lincoln's wages are poor in comparison to other markets; not competitive.

Minimum wage is too low.

Living wages need to be increased.

Lack of quality jobs in the community that pay liveable wages.

Vocational Training

Concerned about on the job training issues.

To work in the same area of expertise or profession that person was educated to do.

Retirement & Investments

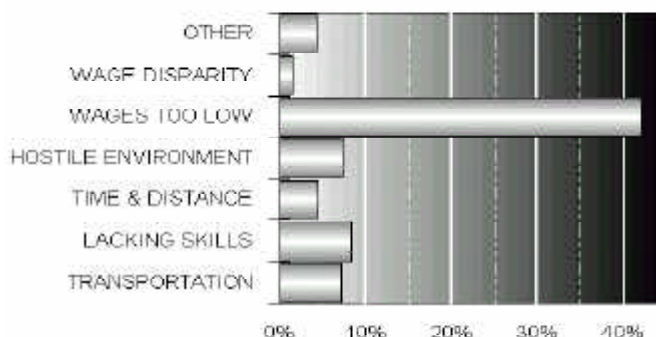
Lack of Social Security benefits for women who have stayed home and not worked. Rates are unfair as compared to those who have worked all their lives in the labor force.

Networking

Lack of mentoring among women.

EMPLOYMENT & WAGE

Graph #C20



PRIORITY CONCERNS With Verbatim Responses

EDUCATION 54%

QUALITY	23%
ACCESS	12%
COST	27%
CULTURALLY ENCOMPASSING	7%
OTHER	4%
NO RESPONSE	27%

Quality

Getting college credits transferred between schools.
 High percentage of non-English speaking students.
 Ratio of staff to students is too high.
 Classroom overcrowding.
 Higher education is not an equal opportunity for everyone - only for the elite, wealthy or for those with religious preferences.
 Need to include interpersonal skills in the curriculum.
 An awareness that education is important.
 Safety and drugs for students.
 Balancing homework and school is an enormous task.
 Many kids don't know north from south. English is awful.
 Kids are falling through academic cracks and we need improvements in education.

Cost

Lack state support for quality education.
 Cost of college unaffordable on fixed income for young and older adults.
 Very difficult to afford an education if disabled because it takes such a long time to accomplish.
 Outside Special Education access denied because family's income is below poverty line.
 Acceptance by taxpayers of the cost of education.

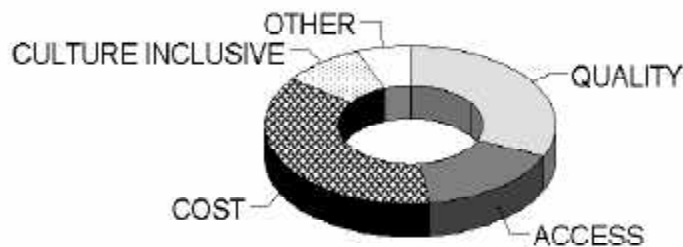
Stigma

People taking advantage of the system and not working due to handouts and they keep getting pregnant.
 Traditional educational values are being replaced by "politically correct" education values.
 Hand outs to single parents - it's not fair to working couples (who also need the help).

Profession

Once achieved educational goals, can't use them in the workforce.
 Teachers not being paid enough.

EDUCATION
Graph #C19



MODERATE CONCERNS

With Verbatim Responses

THE FAMILY 52%

SINGLE PARENTING	20%
COMMUNICATING WITH TEENS	13%
INTERCULTURAL / INTERGENERATIONAL	10%
NEED FOR EXTRA YOUTH PROGRAMS	18%
*YEAR ROUND YOUTH PROGRAMS	12%
*BEFORE SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAM	6%
*AFTER SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAMS	18%
OTHER	7%
NO RESPONSE	32%

Parenting Issues

Quality parenting techniques: spoiling their children instead of teaching them respect or right from wrong; too much materialism.

Need parenting classes beyond childbirth - that's only the beginning.

Father turning children against Mother instead of seeking treatment for his bad behaviors.

Parents don't treat their children with respect.

Grandparents raising grandchildren.

When single mothers fail and make poor choices, they should be given direction and guidance - not jail terms. Keep families together through education and support programs.

Lack of two-parent families.

Lack of quality time of family life.

Parents are oblivious to the high rate of teenage drug and alcohol use/abuse in this city.

Partner Benefits: acknowledge atypical families;

support and acceptance given.

Redefining the family to suit whatever definition is currently popular.

Balancing work, family demands and personal time.

Stepparent and child relationship building and alienation by ex-spouse.

Concerned with community's attitude toward singles and single parent families.

Community Activities

There is nothing to do in Lincoln for families except football. Where is the art, music and diversity?

Need for youth activities pre- and after-school programs and year round, but costs too high.

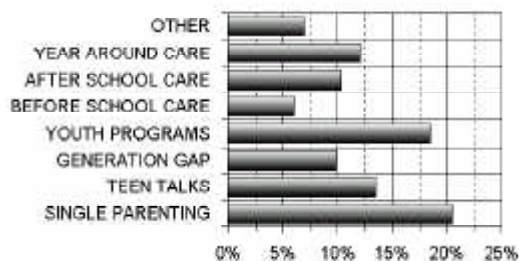
Need better summer programs and teen activities.

Need for activities geared to college-age kids, not just low-income.

Need community outreach programs and network to support educational systems for parents and teenagers to gain conflict resolution and empowerment.

THE FAMILY

Graph #C21



HOUSING 52%

AFFORDABILITY	41%
QUALITY	16%
LOCATION	11%
SPACE	6%
OTHER	4%
NO RESPONSE	22%

Community Support Systems

There is no tenant organization to keep slum lords in check. Renters don't know their rights. Owners fail to make needed home repair improvements.

Upkeep, beautification for neighborhoods and city as a whole.

All the children growing up in hovels, when will we protect them?

Is my neighborhood safe?

Housing Assistance

Concerned with waiting period on Lincoln Housing Authority homes.

Need better housing services and shorter waiting lists.

House too small for family; overcrowding.

Affordability

Taxes and maintenance.

Difficulty obtaining housing because of no established credit rating.

Utilities too high.

Ownership

It's difficult for a single person to buy a home on one income.

Availability of affordable housing for low income single parents and elderly on a fixed income.

No pet rules.

Access

Having bad credit and being a felon makes finding a house very difficult.

Program Abuse

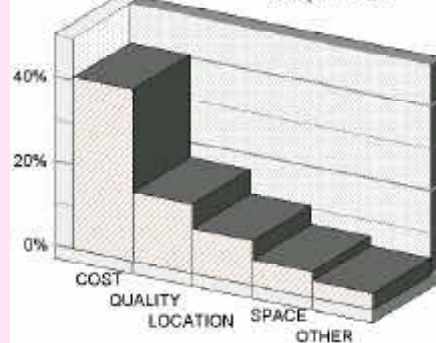
People taking advantage of the system, not working and having more kids.

Family

Concerned for minor children who can't live at home.

HOUSING

Graph #C23



MODERATE CONCERNS With Verbatim Responses

DISCRIMINATION 51%

RACISM	23%
HOMOPHOBIA	13%
SEXISM	25%
RELIGIOUS	9%
OTHER	6%
NO RESPONSE	24%

Stereotypes

Classism - based on social level.

Beauty determines intelligence and ability.

Generation X stereotyping.

Weight or Obesity.
Intolerance for differences.

Hate Crimes.

Conservative churches contribution to society's fear of homosexuality.

Age Discrimination.

Marital Status.

Multicultural Issues

As an Hispanic female, I'm concerned for other immigrant women who take low paying jobs and suffer bad treatment by their employees.

"Newcomer" racism.

Denied services/housing because of inability to speak English well.

Political Perceptions

If you don't vote; you don't count.

Our government supports a conservative fundamental bias - ethnocentrism.

Too much nepotism in Lincoln.

Glass Ceiling

Unequal treatment and consideration in performance of potential job promotion.

Young women are not encouraged to seek nontraditional careers.

Employment opportunities for women.

Education

Uneducated attitudes.

Religion

Religion and reverse discrimination again those who are not "Christian."

CHILD CARE 51%

COST	30%
AVAILABILITY	12%
QUALITY	28%
ACCESS	6%
OTHER	2%
NO RESPONSE	22%

Costs

Cost of non-dependent care to extended family members. Even with assistance and sliding scale fees, the cost of child care still hurts low income.

No money left over after paying the child care bill.

Quality providers are not paid enough to watch children.

Availability

Lack of child care for sick children.

Child care availability on non-school days when parents must work.

No child care during 2nd and 3rd shifts or weekend employment for working parents.

Quality

Too many unsupervised kids running loose.

Lack of child centered activities in the area.

Needs someone who can deal with child's disabilities.

Policies

Security, safety issues.

Not be required to pay daily child care fees to the provider when the child is absent 1 week or 1 month to "hold open" the child's registered slot. A slot should stay reserved for the child because of ongoing business relationship.

Parenting Issues

Need for good discipline, need parenting skills, single & double head of households.

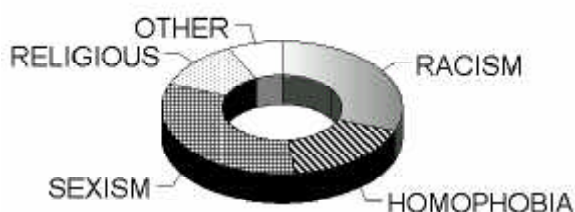
Too much focus on child care and not enough on families sacrificing to "raise their own" children.

Multicultural Issues

Language Barriers.

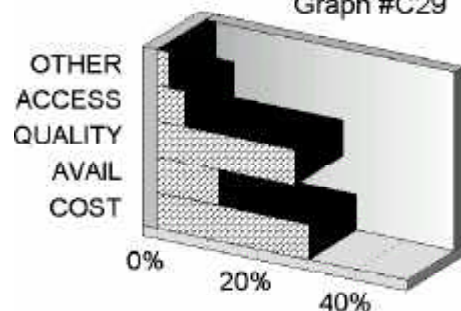
DISCRIMINATION

Graph #C17



CHILD CARE

Graph #C29



MARGINAL CONCERNS With Verbatim Responses

SUBSTANCE ABUSE 40%

ALCOHOL	22%
DRUGS	26%
SMOKING	11%
OTHER	3%
NO RESPONSE	38%

Support Systems

No assistance available to uninsured.
No treatment program available for dually diagnosed patients.
Abuse with prescription drugs.
Repeat DWI/DUI offenders should require mandatory rehabilitation care.
Lack of strong community strategies to stop and prevent abuses via affordable and free programs that are properly staffed.

Crime

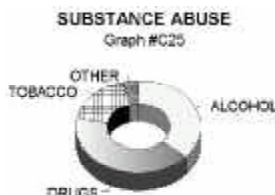
Increase in meth labs in Lincoln and nearby neighborhoods is scary.
Increase in drug-related crime.

Family

Affect on children, family and friends
The increase of tobacco usage among teenagers.
With Lincoln being a college town, these abuses are socially acceptable & expected.

Public Health

Public smoking; nonsmokers forced to breathe second-hand smoke in public places, which infringes on rights of nonsmoker.
Services severely lacking for the disabled.
Lack of mental health services stimulate a lack of drug and alcohol treatment programs and resources. The drug problem is rampant in all races and cultures. It affects the children who are left behind when both parents go to prison, which are full of nonviolent people needing help to reach sobriety and recovery.



SEXUAL ASSAULT 34%

HARASSMENT	19%
DATE RAPE	12%
RAPE	13%
OTHER	2%
NO RESPONSE	54%

Respect

Degradation of women.
Disrespect to middle-aged women by men who think women no longer need love or attention as they approach menopause.
Harassment and disrespect to middle-aged women spawned by men who think women don't need love, sex or marriage.

Law & Order

General concern about the increase in crime (against women) as Lincoln gets bigger.

Safety

Scared to be out at night by myself and working nights alone.
Stalkers.

Types

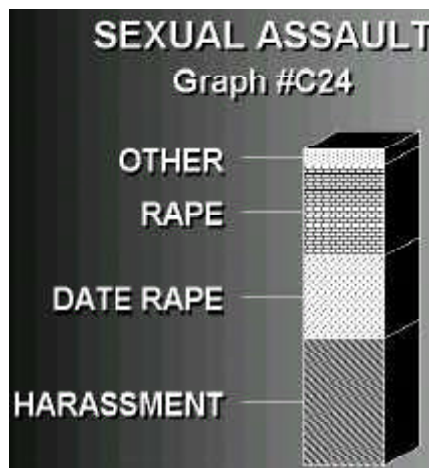
Incest Issues.
To children.

Conviction

Too difficult to prosecute in court.

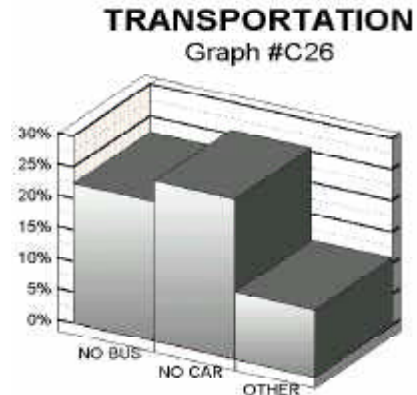
Education

Need adequate education to prevent or stop assaults.



TRANSPORTATION 29%

NO BUS	16%
NO CAR	10%
OTHER	5%
NO RESPONSE	69%



Access

General concern about traffic problems as city grows.
Must rely on others for transportation to and from work; no car.
Too far to travel from home to work.
Lack of service for the handicapped; Handivan is not available.
Lack of transportation for the Elderly; must depend on others for transportation to services.
Need better roads.

Bus Service

Service is less than stellar; improve bus route schedules and times; difficult for single parents.
Lack of adequate transportation for school children (as Lincoln Public Schools cut bus services).
Must walk to work because public bus route is too limited, especially for those in service occupations.

Affordability

Gas prices unaffordable for women on fixed incomes.

OTHER CONCERNS

#20 - There is support for custodial parents, but very little is available to noncustodial parents. They have problems seeing their children and ensuring child support is used for the children. Assistance and support is needed for step-families. This affects the children, father and stepmother.

#26 - Mental health counseling is not covered by my insurance.

#30 - Need more information on finances, self-sufficiency and resources available to incarcerated women who have been or are about to be released.

#35 - Lack of systems support for funding allotments and resources like RSACC.

#47 - Our system is not working - too many teen births, single parents, divorces, and difficulty in holding deserting fathers accountable for child support. Younger generation out of control with music, clothes, tattoos, piercing. Older generation out of touch, suspicious and prejudice to ethnic groups.

#54 - As an Hispanic female, I am very concerned for Hispanic immigrants that come to the US, take low paying jobs and suffer ill treatment by their employers. I am also very concerned for our lack of mental health services and alcohol/drug treatment due to no funding. The drug problem in this country and culture is affecting young children. Substance abuse addicts ruining families due to divorce or one or both parents going to prison. Our prisons are full of alcohol and drug abusers who are otherwise nonviolent persons who need help to gain sobriety and maintain recovery.

#53 - Sex education doesn't affect me directly, but I was a student RN when abortion was illegal and I have since fought for the rights of women to have abortions - both lobbyist and with my job. Seems we are going backwards. Religious Freedoms: The beliefs of the majority are being imposed on non-Christians.

#59 - I have no problems at this time.

#61 - Giving women a strong self image to prevent them from becoming teen mothers or marrying abusers.

#71 - Lack of job opportunities for women in Lincoln, fewer nontraditional or jobs with upper mobility, \$6 - \$7 an hr. jobs and temporary jobs, poor training at community college, poor career guidance, few apprenticeships, women classified as clerical, women not affording health and dental health and dental care. Discrimination of women in hiring. Lack of police protection with growth of city. Aging women thrown in poor retirement facilities. Pay equity, school funding so declining, women poor job morale, high food costs, (nutritional food). Job placement/unemployment office a superficial hoax, lack of women networking. Let's get real! Cost of living raises?

#77 - I think Nebraska has a pretty good health care plan for people unable to afford insurance. I am recently divorced and left husband. I work a full time steady job and have one child. The only way to get assistance with day-to-day needs is to get a lower paying job. It seems to be a no-win situation for the working poor. I can see why so many single parents (women for the most part) get wrapped up in the welfare system. I will continue to work hard, and hope and pray for the best. However, sometimes hope is not enough. A little assistance would be more beneficial than quitting work to get some assistance, because even that's not enough and there is no hope for advancement there. So I will keep with my hope because I don't see any changes for people who are truly trying.

#78 - Mid-20's; work full time. I am not able to get relief/help with rent, etc. If I had three kids and was single, then it wouldn't be a problem. I feel people are really taking advantage of

hand outs. Food stamps, WIC, etc. I work 40 hours per week, single, and have a hard time. Something needs to be done to get these women off the system, make them work full time. No one helped me go to school, live, have a car, doctor bills, etc. That's why people keep having kids especially by different men.

#79 - Tax money paying for city employees to play all day on the Internet at work.

#88 - Housing is a big concern. I have been looking at 3-4 bedroom houses to buy. You cannot find any that are reasonably priced, in a decent area, that have any quality. One thing that I think would really help families to get into homes would be if there were more rent with option-to-buy homes. You just never see this.

#97 - Professionally I see different priorities for younger women - child care, health care and housing that is affordable is a problem. Violence (youth, sports, domestic, peer, dating) is a typical unproductive response most prevalent. We role model this to our children; media enhances images.

#114 - It's really difficult for women such as myself who was a single parent for many years to make ends meet financially. Men do not have that problem normally. They work at their career during the times when the children are young. By the time they are in my age bracket, they have had the opportunities to advance and improve their ability to earn a decent income with retirement plans and savings etc. I find it very difficult to make it at times.

#119 - Medical Insurance is a major problem for most women. Also it seems in order to get a job in this town you seem to have to know someone in that job to even be considered. Way too much nepotism in this town.

#123 - Lack of management communicating with staff; turned down for training - not good reason given (glass ceiling issues).

OTHER CONCERNS

#129 - Children's Activities; son is kept out because costs are too high, what programs are affordable offer no challenge (sports, music, band, etc).

#135 - Volunteer work, church, socialization, etc., for the older woman.

#140 - It concerns me that the children of today have less and less respect for their elders and it's being taught to do this in the public school system (says my daughter, age 13). It concerns me that the sexual harassment has become more prominent.

#153 - Breakdown of family; single parent families really struggle; as do single adults living from paycheck to paycheck is very stressful; inability to take time to relax without stressful thoughts of finance or unable to get away even for a couple days each year. One parent going off and providing wonderful things for new family and many tax breaks while remaining spouse struggles with daily expenses.

#181 - Please note that of the concerns listed, choosing which one was of "most concern" was extremely difficult as all the concerns need/ deserve priority and attention. If I had to select another concern it would be emergency assistance. Women try to travel through Lincoln to get to a family emergency or job opportunity and it's extremely difficult to get immediate gas/food/shelter funding or for other crisis, i.e. gas company turned off neighbor's service due to nonpayment and State Department of Health and Human Services refused assistance to her when applied. It was off for months while she struggled with mental health issues.

#186 - Education for our children: I have an expectation for our children to go to school, stay in school (class) and have the opportunity to learn. I have discovered if our children cut class, we as parents don't necessarily find out. Our children are allowed to litter in the halls, on sidewalks around

school and smoke. The city attorneys won't prosecute those children caught smoking. Who is enabling our children to fail?

#189 - As I get older and the need for me to bring my car downtown for parking (is a problem), riding the bus has an interest to me. However the hours of public transportation do not coincide with my long work hours.

#193 - Lincoln Public School System is on a hierarchy of class system. Higher paid the less they do and is a male organization. The school system is helping the demise of the family. There's not a strong sense of community in the school system any longer. There are very few positive programs in the school and people have to go outside to find fun programs - YMCA and such. It's terrible that the \$\$\$ is all being paid to people who do nothing but attend meetings.

#200 - Many services are wonderful in Lincoln. Many need work. As a professional, it concerns me that women who need substance abuse treatment usually face huge waiting lists if referred to a woman-housed program. Meanwhile, UNL football players who have no apparent jobs or money get instant acceptance into recovery programs. How can this be and who pays for it?

#212 - Cost of living for senior citizens living on social security and pensions.

#213 - Close down the bars and start family oriented activities. Breakdown of families a real problem. Starts with dads who need to be home being dads and husbands. Too many aren't. Wish moms could be full-time moms and maybe some more could if dads would be dads, in my opinion.

#222 - More communication between faith-based groups and local agencies.

#232 - Women are stereotyped as being dumb. Religious people are stereotyped as being honest,

especially ministers. I was told by a minister to accept being hit as a cross I should bear and a woman is supposed to get killed before she gets a divorce. This is in Lincoln, Neb., where there is a "divorced" First Lady doll on display. No one should have to live in fear. There is no help for a woman and Nancy Osborne should not be allowed to advertise that there is. I think many murders of women are passed off as suicides by law officials.

#238 - Just resources for women.

#246 - It seems if you are on assistance and just get ahead, you are punished for getting ahead. Some of your assistance is taken away! Well, when that happens I tend to fall behind again! If it weren't for the public assistance, I wouldn't have made it ahead in the first place.

#252 - Need to stop violence that our children are exposed to. A better legal system is needed so as not to put children or spouses back into a violent environment because of "red tape." Violence breeds violence. We must stop it at the earliest stages.

#261 - Programs to support women's educational achievements such as stipends for women who don't qualify for assistance to encourage continuance, especially in fields historically dominated by males such a computer and legal.

#270 - All of the above items are very important. The concerns I checked have either affected me personally or have adversely affected someone with whom I am close. Thank you for your efforts to help resolve issues that affect women.

#278 - These are the issues that are problems for me personally. But I think it's important to address many of the others as well, for the benefit of the community.

#281 - Cost of clothing for families. Gas prices for homes.

#284 - I believe women in general are discriminated against in Lincoln. But women who are business women

OTHER CONCERNS

or women who have a higher income discriminate against lower income or stay-at-home moms.

#290 - Use local school buildings better.

#291 - Glass ceiling jobs are not being taken seriously and pushed aside. Lack of local entertainment for high school kids. Too much focus on bars/night clubs and parties in Lincoln. Not many other options. Cultural events cost prohibitive and not available to most people, especially young women because the money is not there for them. Cost of living so high in Lincoln that educational opportunities become very limited due to ability to pay. Most women I know work two jobs in addition to raising and care for families and are therefore excluded from self-betterment due to family, money and time constraints. Most men I know do have these obstacles and can pursue self-improvement much more easily.

#292 - I am a single parent on medicaid and I get looked down upon just because other single parents aren't responsible. I am struggling with my past due bills and living paycheck to paycheck. I was on WIC but was embarrassed at the supermarket so I got off of WIC. Recreation for families with low incomes, I would like my son to experience everything that any other kid would be able to. (Museums, camps, etc.) The cost of living is rising but the pay is staying. I need to get a second job but have no one to watch my son, therefore I have to struggle to pay my bills.

#303 - General lack of respect based on gender, race, religion, etc.

#308 - Enforcement of child support orders.

#314 - We are trying to eliminate welfare benefits and people (women) on them. For the women who do work and try keeping the medicaid and some benefits instead of eliminating them - give them some. Take away

from women not working, add some if they work part time. Full-time students use it more as a reward to women to work, like a benefit in a job. The longer you're there, the better and more benefits you receive. This will encourage and reward women for trying, for having a job. In the long run, more women working, less on ADC for the medical benefits. Save the state. Children would be learning value of working and trying by see their parents do this. I feel you would also be saving the state money in the future too.

#331 - Thank God for my old car I got when I worked in Kansas. The attitude of the local human resource people toward local people. They'll hire any bozo from out of town. The grass is always greener. For a university town, the anti-intellectualism of this community is appalling. Everyone supports the football team though. There's also a lot of address snobbery in this town. If your address isn't up to "snuff" you don't get hired. One told me to my face "that's not a nice neighborhood."

#341 - Fear on the part of elected officials to handle tough "prevention issues." City/County must take leadership roles here, especially now that the mayor has the Health Department under his control. Condom use and distribution, HIV, AIDS prevention education, teen pregnancy prevention, STD rates, family planning, prenatal care, methamphetamine use. Prevention saves lives!

#353 - Hate crimes, racial and nonracial.

#354 - Women being victims of abuse, children being neglected, abused, etc.

#367 - Food - can't survive without it, but it's hard to eat just enough.

#368 - Native American economic and racial justice issues.

#374 - I am not a homosexual, but I'm appalled by the red neck/ upperclass views against same sex

marriages in this area. The bumper sticker, "Our Marriage Doesn't Need Defending, Sorry About Yours" is just as bad as saying, "I hate gay people." Women also need to be rewarded for obtaining college degrees while working full-time jobs. I had a child when I was 18, but I never used welfare. I went to school full-time (with my mom's help). I obtained a Bachelor Degree. Childcare costs are way too high, especially for the type of care they are providing!

#375 - Imposing of certain religious beliefs on the entire community, i.e. anti-abortion/right to life issues, Family First/the Catholic church in general. Why are these groups given priority over other groups' views and opinions. There must be an equal balance, but I don't think it will ever happen in Lincoln.

#380 - Job related, emotional abuse, possibly goes under hostile work environment.

#387 - Educational assistance/ daycare costs for a woman over 40 years old, desiring to attend college in order to obtain a degree to be promoted and able to be paid a salary that can sustain a portion of living expenses for the family (mid-life change in careers being a common desire for women now).

#391 - Low pay, yet jobs require you to be very intelligent. Flex time is a real need because we want to be mothers. Husband dies before you and income decreases. Women's health such as heart, thyroid, hormones, bones. Need more time to exercise on job to stay healthy. Health equals stretch and tone. Cars and houses too expensive for women.

#393 - Children should be raised by their parents or families, not some mythical "village" of paid providers. Day care should not be touted as a great opportunity to socialize. Working moms should stop complaining about how hard life is, and society should stop pitying, supporting, and encouraging this

OTHER CONCERNS

outrageously selfish behavior. Unless there is a true need financial need to work/earn money, mothers should not feel that it's acceptable to dump their children and their upbringing to others. Put down the parenting books, look your child in the eye, listen to what they are telling you, enjoy your child, love your child and parent them. How many school shootings, drug abuse, and teen pregnancies does it take for parents to learn they need to be involved with their children right from the start!

#394 - Since I am a retired part-time worker, I don't experience any of these problems, but I am concerned about others' racism and homophobia in Lincoln.

#405 - Affordability and assistance with the costs of housing and utilities for the disabled.

#406 - Age discrimination; starting one's career after kids are raised. Running out of years available to pay into retirement!

#407 - Overpopulation, overdevelopment, environmental deterioration.

#416 - Reproductive freedom!

#418 - Lack of representation in the Unicameral, etc. Generally only the legislative committee headed by a woman is Education. Idiotic comments from the public like there's no need for a Women's Commission.

#421 - People actually listening to what our concerns really are. No one feels our plights as older adults.

#435 - Educational costs, quality, and accessibility of. Drug laws need updating, need to decriminalize laws on users, need to have better rehabilitation facilities and programs for users. Need better public transportation system and routes. Need better social service programs that will work with lower middle class and poverty levels.

#441 - My husband has a rare disease, Wegner's Granviolatosi. He's also had a kidney transplant. His medical expenses are so high that we

have not been able to save away for a home of our own. I have a four-year college degree and am working on a second degree in hopes of better wages and benefits and a chance to purchase our own home.

#446 - Overall conservative attitude of reproductive freedom. Share all information and facts and then allow the woman to choose.

#454 - Overall homophobia and the ignorance towards it. In schools, our community, foster care, and adoption, women being discriminated against in every way.

#461 - At nearly 86 years old, I am comfortably settled in "The Legacy," which is a lovely retirement community. I have few health problems and those I do have are being taken care of by skilled and caring doctors. I have my car and drive wherever I choose to go. None of the problems listed are a problem to me, though I realize there are many women in this community who are suffering. I try to do my part by always being positive, smiling, and greeting those I have contact with. I am grateful for each day and each day I try to make a difference in someone's life. Life has not always been easy, but I count my blessings. Good luck in your survey!

#463 - Need lots of work with boys and men to teach proper respect for girls and women. Would like to see campaign to ban pharmaceutical companies advertising in magazines and on TV. Drug prices pay for this advertising. Shortage of funds for after school summer programs for kids. I love Lincoln but there's always room for improvement!

#464 - Lack of values by children, teenagers and adults. They do what feels right. Too much credit card debt for young adults. Growing older and health concerns, so many friends dying of cancer. (I'm 64.) Family gone - all over the country; not seeing grandchildren, maybe in the summer. I don't see them. No family. Miss

adult children very much. They are so busy with their own lives.

#468 - Early childhood quality education teaching public school children to do well on a test, not to have a job of learning and think through problems and solutions.

#487 - Lack of respect for others, parents for children, children for parents, teachers, authority, for other drivers, for property of others, etc.

#488 - Lack of personal safety on the job. What are companies doing differently since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks? What can employees do on their own? Lack of manners and professionalism at work and in general society at large, i.e. sexual innuendo, cell phone etiquette, gossip, back stabbing and swearing on the job, road rage. How do we counteract the "talk show" culture of our times?

#490 - Although I personally have found the resources I need, I know there are a lot of women in my neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods who are struggling with many of the above issues.

#491 - Quality and lack of assistance for temporary housing for women.

#492 - Feminism and the millennial generation: what do young women expect of themselves, other women, and society? How do they think about power? How do they view other women?

#495 - Problem solving by nations and adults.

#503 - Emotional abuse.

#504 - Lack of good, safe housing for elderly. Lack of health services for elderly. Lack of frequent transportation to Lincoln. These are problems in a very small rural community.

#505 - Feeling safe in my neighborhood. We have trouble with drug trafficking which seems to bring with it violence, crime and rowdy neighbors sometimes. It's a very transient neighborhood with so many

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apartment buildings. Lots of people in a very concentrated area.

#512 - Rising taxes. County/State budget deficits. Rising health insurance costs. Pay does not rise to compensate. Can't vote on major sale/purchases by city/county government. An example is the Haymarket Park and Lincoln General Hospital sale.

#513 - Rising health insurance, taxes on houses. No increase in salary to compensate for increased expenses.

#515 - My concerns revolve around the office I currently work in. There are a very few women, mostly men. There are no women in management in my office and generally in the lower paid group. There are many "discriminatory" things that are said and done, and I feel that little is done to correct the behavior.

#520 - I need a good job with kind, honest, decent people. I need financial independence so I can live on my own and to gain serenity. My goal is to regain my place in the world and to earn a decent living. If you know of a good administrative position in a professional environment, please let me know.

#522 - Women's health issues: funding, education, i.e. pap smears; mammograms, birth control; counseling; fitness/weight management.

#531 - Lack of equivalent legal protection for same-sex unmarried couples and partners.

#546 - Stalking problems.

#558 - Barking dogs. Busy intersections without even a Yield sign.

#577 - I have no serious concerns for myself at this time. However, I'd pick health care and domestic violence as primary concerns.

#578 - Treated like a second class citizen.

#589 - Low cost or sliding scale fee for legal or medical services to handle workplace disputes or negotiate

paperwork required for accessing support systems.

#592 - Thanks for all your good work! Great job!

#593 - The lack of common courtesy and respect for others, lack of people's basic sanitary practices (washing hands after bathroom, etc.) and taking responsibility for actions.

#620 - There should be a program that provides cars and vans to those who can't afford them and the costly repairs. This would increase independence with a way to work and school. I am a dually-diagnosed woman. Schizo-affective with poly-substance abuse. Mostly men fall under dual diagnosis. There are no program or treatment facilities for this. I go to one DRA meeting every Thursday at 8 p.m. at the meeting place on 28th and S streets, upstairs. The Veterans Administration has a meeting for veterans and there's one other, a CRC. The Thursday night meeting is the only free meeting. I am the only woman in a group of 10-15 people. I am a minority. I need help.

#621 - I am 62 years old and raising a teen boy with special needs. He is on SSI and recently I started to collect child support for him. Notes: SSI deducts from his check 2/3 of his child support amount. Then housing raises our rent due to the child support. We get nothing out of it but grief and paperwork. SSI / Child Support has mandatory deductions!

#623 - The general "breakdown" of family or family-like relations and connections of caring. How do we foster relationships for all, share resources including time?

#624 - Apparent lack of moral values being promoted in the schools. Too many liquor licenses.

#625 - As a therapist, all of the above are a concern. Personally, as an older adult that's self-employed and widowed, my issues of late are more related to grief and loss; being single after 60, and services available to older adults.

#647 - Looks like I don't have serious problems at this stage of my life.

#649 - Traffic congestion. Distances one has to walk to shop at any store.

#653 - Women's use of power. Women still acquiesce to men feeling that it's necessary in order to feel successful. Women often keep other women down in order to feel good about themselves. Need to be responsible for selves and provide positive training for sons and daughters and husbands.

#655 - Housing costs seem to be high for a single person just starting out. (I have a friend in this situation.) She is living with us at the present time to save some money.

#656 - I am concerned about my future ability to rise above where I am. I have a bachelor's degree, which I received nine years ago, yet this has not helped me find that "better" employment. I am currently attending Southeast Community College in hopes of increasing my earnings potential. However, I am fearful that this may not happen.

#672 - These things do not affect me personally, but they are concerns.

#691 - Increase in crime/drugs.

#694 - Loneliness, boyfriend died recently.

#758 - Many bad people here, but it's good now. I work and don't make enough money for health insurance. Worry that when I get sick, I won't be helped.

#759 - I don't understand how to vote because I am not a citizen.

#761 - I have no car; my child is always sick; no time to take care of things because of working so much.

#763 - Can't speak English

#782 - No car, insurance, house, money. I am not happy.

#784 - Language barrier.

#792 - Noncitizen Hispanic immigrant. I'm afraid I might lose my job.

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